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Y.M.

Claims 1 - 12 (cancelled)

Claim <sup>1</sup>~~15~~ (amended) A method for preparing an endothermic heat shield composition, which comprises at least 50 wt/wt% hydrated salt and at least one filler material, said method comprising:

- a) heating the hydrated salt to a temperature at which it liquefies;
- b) adding and mixing at least one filler material into a); and cooling the mixture to form a composition wherein the hydrated salt particles are fused to each other, with the proviso that said at least one filler material is a mixture of organic and inorganic materials.

<sup>2</sup>~~14~~. (original) The method according to claim <sup>1</sup>~~15~~, wherein said hydrated salt is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot 16-18\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ;  $\text{NH}_4\text{Fe}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ;  $\text{Na}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ;  $\text{NaAl}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ;  $\text{AlNH}_4(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12-24\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ;  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ;  $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ;  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ;  $\text{KAl}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ;  $\text{Na}_2\text{SiO}_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ;  $\text{Mg}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ;  $\text{NaNO}_3$ ;  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ; and mixtures thereof.

<sup>3</sup>~~16~~. (original) The method according to claim <sup>1</sup>~~15~~, wherein at least 50% of said salt is hydrate aluminum sulfate.

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Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claims 17 - 25

<sup>10</sup><sub>17</sub>. (original) The method according to claim <sup>1</sup><sub>15</sub>, wherein said  
~~organic component is a solid cellulose-based component.~~

<sup>11</sup><sub>18</sub>. (original) The method according to claim <sup>10</sup><sub>17</sub>, wherein said  
solid cellulose-based component is selected from the group  
consisting of wood particles and paper particles.

<sup>12</sup><sub>19</sub>. (original) The method according to claim <sup>10</sup><sub>17</sub>, wherein said  
solid cellulose-based component is present in an amount ranging  
from about 5 wt/wt% to 30 wt/wt%.

<sup>4</sup><sub>15</sub> <sup>20</sup>. (withdrawn from consideration) A method according to claim  
<sup>15</sup><sub>16</sub> wherein said organic component includes sugar molasses which is  
present in an amount of up to 20 wt/wt%.

<sup>5</sup><sub>21</sub>. (original) A method according to claim <sup>1</sup><sub>15</sub>, wherein said  
inorganic component is selected from the group consisting of glass  
fibers and ceramic fibers which is present in an amount of up, to  
10 wt/wt%.

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<sup>6</sup><sub>2d.</sub> (original) The method according to claim <sup>13</sup><sub>16</sub>, wherein said inorganic component is inert, highly porous and light weight.

<sup>7</sup><sub>2d.</sub> (withdrawn from consideration) The method according to claim <sup>13</sup><sub>16</sub>, wherein said inorganic component is selected from the group consisting of Vermiculite and Perlite and is present in an amount ranging from about 5 wt/wt% to 30 wt/wt%.

<sup>8</sup><sub>2d.</sub> (original) The method according to claim <sup>13</sup><sub>16</sub>, further comprising the step of adding up to 10 wt/wt% water to the hydrated salt prior to heating.

<sup>9</sup><sub>2d.</sub> (withdrawn from consideration) The method according to claim <sup>13</sup><sub>16</sub>, wherein inorganic component is present in an amount of up to 10 wt/wt% and it is selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide, magnesium oxide, aluminum oxide, and mixtures thereof.